



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Naco, AZ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

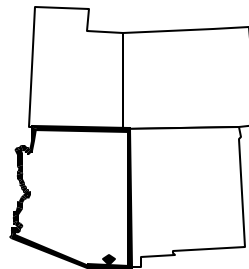
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Naco Fire District for a Brownfields Pilot. Naco (population 748) is a rural, unincorporated town in Cochise County. The town is 80 percent Hispanic with a 28 percent unemployment rate. Naco, Arizona is directly across the border from Naco, Sonora-Mexico, and the two cities have worked together on regional issues over the years and are recognized as a model for cross-border cooperation.

The Pilot targets 260 acres directly across the border from Naco, Sonora-Mexico. From the 1930s until the 1980s, the area was a major agribusiness route for the processing and shipping of cattle between Mexico and the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture required that all cattle coming into the United States be treated with pesticides, such as DDT, chlordane, and heptachlor. Thus the site contains former cattle dip vats contaminated with pesticides, as well as a large number of dead animals, trash, and other buried waste. In addition, as the Mexican city of Naco grew, its waste treatment plant did not, and became overburdened and unable to handle the high volume of raw sewage and industrial waste water. Frequent breakdowns resulted in overflows of the system, which poured sewage over the border onto the U.S. crossing site. Since the

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Naco, Arizona

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets 260 acres along the U.S. border with Mexico, formerly used as a major agribusiness cattle crossing facility.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

border crossing closed in the late 1980s, these spills have become the main source of pollution in Naco, Arizona. The exact nature and extent of the contamination from the dip vats and the waste treatment plant at the brownfields site is unknown.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot seeks to facilitate cleanup of the targeted areas so that potential risks are removed and the properties can be transformed into productive use. Through cooperation from the communities, cities, counties, and emergency response teams on both sides of the border, Naco, Sonora has received funding to build a new treatment plant scheduled for completion in late 1999. Eliminating the threat of flooding opens up the U.S. border-crossing brownfields site to redevelopment opportunities. Local stakeholders, such as county authorities, community members, non-governmental organizations, and citizen groups have identified the environmental assessment of the site as the first step in the area's overall redevelopment process. Initial redevelopment plans include retail shops and restaurants incorporated in at least one shopping center, and light industrial facilities. The Pilot will initiate the revitalization efforts by assessing the environmental contamination from the site's former cattle pens and agribusiness activity.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I and II assessments at the 260-acre site on the U.S. side of the border;
- Creating a cleanup and redevelopment plan for the area; and
- Conducting community involvement activities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.